

Special Organics Section



**Over 30% of California's Solid Waste is
Compostable Organic Materials!**

**The California Integrated Waste Management
Board is finding homes for organic materials.**

Compost and Mulch Can Build and Protect Soil in Many Ways

It can...

- *Improve soil tilth and crumb structure/friability*
- *Add beneficial microorganisms*
- *Provide a source of slow-release nutrients*
- *Improve water retention*
- *Control erosion*
- *Suppress weeds & selected diseases, such as Phytophthora*
- *Improve cation exchange capacity*



Visit the “Organics Outlook” Web site at:

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics

You'll find information on compost, mulch, grasscycling, and other techniques relating to the management and use of organic resources. “Organics” means materials that are or were once living, such as leaves, grass, agricultural crop residues, or food scraps. Nature has a way of decomposing these organic materials and naturally reusing them...just as a forest floor becomes dense with humus. The following topics can be found on the web site:

Farming
Home Gardening
Compost and Mulch Processing
Greening Team Statewide Perspective

Commercial Landscaping
Food Recycling
Procurement

Or Contact the Organic Materials Management Staff

**Agricultural demos, compost/mulch
processes & specifications,
erosion control**

Pat Paswater (916) 255-2295

**Agricultural outreach, agricultural
demonstration video**

Christy Porter (916) 255-2410

**Agricultural outreach, CCQC,
compost/mulch processes,
market trends, regulations**

Pat Jones (916) 255-2483

**Backyard composting, compost/mulch
source list, yard trimmings**

Phil Hyson (916) 255-2421

**Commercial landscaper outreach,
specifications, yard trimmings**

Mel Ries (916) 255-2587

Grasscycling, vermicomposting

Ken Decio (916) 255-2625

Market trends, industry surveys

Steve Storelli (916) 255-2470

Supervisor

Howard Levenson (916) 255-2159

Where Can You Find Over 100,000 Tons of Compost and Mulch in One Place?

In the CIWMB's Compost & Mulch Sources List

This free service offers a handy resource to locate suppliers of bulk quantities of recycled content compost and mulch products in local areas. Information includes company name, address, phone, fax, feedstock materials used, and end use products and brand names. The Board publishes this information to enhance public awareness of these valuable products, and also to increase their purchase and use.

To receive a copy of the Compost and Source List, contact Phil Hyson at (916) 255-2421 or view it at the Web site:

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics/procurement

If you would like to be included on the Compost and Mulch Sources list, call Phil Hyson at (916) 255-2421 or fill out the application form on the Web site.



Landscape Management Outreach Program

Landscape maintenance professionals handle over one-half the yard trimmings generated in California.

The CIWMB will partner with selected local jurisdictions, landscape industry associations, and landscape management educators to sponsor a series of outreach activities that will focus on:

- *Providing greenwaste disposal alternatives and diversion options for professional landscape maintenance operators, and*
- *Promoting practical ways for landscape managers to reduce, reuse or recycle organic materials using environmentally beneficial landscape management practices.*

Techniques such as grasscycling, xeriscaping, and on-site composting using urban-derived mulch and compost products will be demonstrated to illustrate how these techniques can benefit landscapes and save on labor, hauling, and disposal costs.

For more information, visit the CIWMB's Organics Outlook web site at:

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics/landscaping



CHOOSE QUALITY

The California Compost Quality Council (CCQC) is a unique alliance of farmers, compost producers, soil scientists, landscape contractors, agricultural advisors, university professors, soil laboratories, and recycling advocates—formed to administer compost quality guidelines to increase the production and use of compost in California. Compost producers who meet the criteria established by CCQC can proudly display the CCQC registration seal on their products.



It's hard to argue with the fact that compost can add significant benefits to just about any growing application. Now—with CCQC registration—farmers, horticulturalists, nurserymen, landscapers, groundskeepers, and others in green industries can have extra confidence in the quality and consistency of the compost products they use.

If you're buying compost, look for the CCQC seal. If you're producing compost, get registered. For more information call 415/241-0266 or visit the CCQC web site at www.crra.com/ccqc

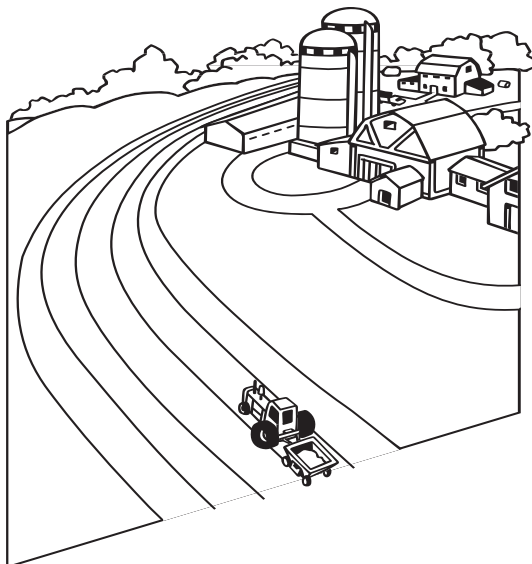
CIWMB Agricultural Demonstrations

Compost and mulch made from yard trimmings is gaining more acceptance in the agricultural community. The CIWMB funded a variety of agricultural demonstration projects designed to show commercial growers the benefits of using compost in commercial crop production. Compost and mulch was tested on a variety of crops. The most promising results to date include:

- *Successfully growing sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelons, and nursery plants using compost.*
- *Suppressing Phytophthora root rot in avocado using municipal mulch*
- *Achieving effective erosion control through large applications of municipal mulch in numerous citrus orchards*

More detailed information regarding the mulch and compost demonstrations is available on the Organics Outlook page of the CIWMB Web site at:

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics/farming



What Growers and Researchers Say About The Benefits of Using Compost and Mulch...

“After 20 years of growing grapes, using compost for nutrient management is by far the most effective thing that we’ve done.”

Jack Pandol
Pandol & Sons
Delano, California

“Preliminary results show Phytophthora damage is reduced in avocado groves receiving applications of mulch.”

Dr. John Menge
Plant Pathologist
UC Riverside



“We’re raising the biggest watermelons we’ve ever raised!”

Dale Rumble
C.J. Rumble & Sons
Modesto, California

“Greenwaste wood chips give good weed control.”

Clyde Elmore
UC Davis Cooperative Extension Advisor